

What is claimed is

1. A method for the development of photopolymerizable flexographic relief printing plates comprising  
selecting a developing solvent, said developing solvent comprising at least one  
5 terpene ether; and  
washing an exposed flexographic relief printing plate with said developing solvent.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the photopolymerizable flexographic relief  
10 printing plates is selected from the group consisting of block co-polymers of styrene and butadiene, block co-polymers of styrene and isoprene, co-polymers of butadiene and acrylonitrile, terpolymers of butadiene, acrylonitrile, and acrylic acid.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the developing solvent further comprising a  
15 co-solvent.
4. The method of claim 4, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group consisting of n-butanol, 2-ethoxyethanol, benzyl alcohol, ethanol, methanol, propanol, isopropanol, alpha terpeneol, dipropylene glycol methyl ether, 2-butoxyethanol,  
20 isopropyl alcohol, and 2-(2-butoxyethoxy) ethanol, cyclopentanol, cyclohexanol, cycloheptanol, substituted cyclopentanol, substituted cyclohexanol, substituted cycloheptanol, cyclopentyl substituted alcohol, cyclohexyl substituted alcohol, and cycloheptyl substituted alcohol.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the substituted cyclohexanol is 4-ethycyclohexanol.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the substituted cyclopentanol is 2,3 dimethylcyclopentanol.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein the cyclohexyl substituted alcohol is cyclohexylpropanol.
8. The method of claim 4, wherein the cyclopentyl substituted alcohol is 4-cyclopentylpentanol.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the developing solvent further comprising a non-solvent.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the non-solvent is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic petroleum distillates, naphthas, paraffinic solvents, hydro-treated petroleum distillates, mineral oil, mineral spirits, ligroin, decane, octane, and hexane.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the developing solvent further comprising a co-solvent and a non-solvent.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group consisting of n-butanol, 2-ethoxyethanol, benzyl alcohol, ethanol, methanol, propanol,

isopropanol, alpha terpineol, dipropylene glycol methyl ether, 2-butoxyethanol,  
isopropyl alcohol, and 2-(2-butoxyethoxy) ethanol, cyclopentanol, cyclohexanol,  
cycloheptanol, substituted cyclopentanol, substituted cyclohexanol, substituted  
cycloheptanol, cyclopentyl substituted alcohol, cyclohexyl substituted alcohol, and  
5 cycloheptyl substituted alcohol.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the non-solvent is selected from the group  
consisting of aliphatic petroleum distillates, naphthas, paraffinic solvents, hydro-  
treated petroleum distillates, mineral oil, mineral spirits, ligroin, decane, octane, and  
10 hexane.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the terpene ether is present in an amount of  
about 50-70% by volume, the co-solvent is present in an amount of about 20-50% by  
volume, and the non-solvent is present in an amount of about 10-30% by volume.  
15

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising drying the flexographic relief  
printing plate to remove the developing solvent.

16. A developing solvent for the development of photopolymerizable flexographic  
20 relief printing plates comprising at least one terpene ether effective to remove non-  
exposed photopolymerizable material.

17. The developing solvent of claim 16, wherein the developing solvent further  
comprising a co-solvent.  
25

18. The developing solvent of claim 17, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group consisting of n-butanol, 2-ethoxyethanol, benzyl alcohol, ethanol, methanol, propanol, isopropanol, alpha terpineol, dipropylene glycol methyl ether, 2-butoxyethanol, isopropyl alcohol, and 2-(2-butoxyethoxy) ethanol, cyclopentanol, cyclohexanol, cycloheptanol, substituted cyclopentanol, substituted cyclohexanol, substituted cycloheptanol, cyclopentyl substituted alcohol, cyclohexyl substituted alcohol, and cycloheptyl substituted alcohol.
19. The developing solvent of claim 18, wherein the substituted cyclohexanol is 4-ethycyclohexanol.
20. The developing solvent of claim 18, wherein the substituted cyclopentanol is 2,3 dimethylcyclopentanol.
21. The developing solvent of claim 18, wherein the cyclohexyl substituted alcohol is cyclohexylpropanol.
22. The developing solvent of claim 18, wherein the cyclopentyl substituted alcohol is 4-cyclopentylpentanol.
23. The developing solvent of claim 16, further comprising a non-solvent.
24. The developing solvent of claim 23, wherein the non-solvent is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic petroleum distillates, naphthas, paraffinic solvents,

hydro-treated petroleum distillates, mineral oil, mineral spirits, ligroin, decane, octane, and hexane.

25. The developing solvent of claim 16, further comprising a co-solvent and a  
5 non-solvent.

26. The developing solvent of claim 25, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group consisting of n-butanol, 2-ethoxyethanol, benzyl alcohol, ethanol, methanol, propanol, isopropanol, alpha terpineol, dipropylene glycol methyl ether, 2-  
10 butoxyethanol, isopropyl alcohol, and 2-(2-butoxyethoxy) ethanol, cyclopentanol, cyclohexanol, cycloheptanol, substituted cyclopentanol, substituted cyclohexanol, substituted cycloheptanol, cyclopentyl substituted alcohol, cyclohexyl substituted alcohol, and cycloheptyl substituted alcohol.

15 27. The developing solvent of claim 25, wherein the non-solvent is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic petroleum distillates, naphthas, paraffinic solvents, hydro-treated petroleum distillates, mineral oil, mineral spirits, ligroin, decane, octane, and hexane.

20 28. The developing solvent of claim 25, wherein the terpene ether is present in an amount of about 50-70% by volume, the co-solvent is present in an amount of about 20-50% by volume, and the non-solvent is present in an amount of about 10-30% by volume.